

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1076

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 0177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IT, RO, PFOR

SUBJ: BERLINGUER VISITS ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 0029 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. BERLINGUER'S FIRST VISIT TO ROMANIA
JANUARY 5-7 PRODUCED NO IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE DECLARATIONS
AND A FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH IS LESS WARM IN TONE THAN
THOSE ISSUED DURING SIMILAR VISITS BY TOP LEADERS OF
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTIES. ACCORDING
TO LOCAL ANSA CORRESPONDENT, BERLINGUER FOUND LITTLE
COMMON IDEOLOGICAL GROUND WITH ROMANIANS, HAD LITTLE
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SUCCESS IN RESOLVING SUCH QUESTIONS AS LARGE BACKLOG
OF ROMANIAN-ITALIAN MIXED MARRIAGE CASES, AND WAS
SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSED WITH ROMANIAN SYSTEM. ONLY
PRINCIPAL POINT OF AGREEMENT WAS TO MAINTAIN EMPHASIS
ON EACH PARTY'S FREEDOM OF ACTION ON ITS RESPECTIVE
ROAD TO "SOCIALISM." BERLINGUER ALSO REPORTEDLY WAS
CONVINCED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

IN ROMANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS IN SPITE OF RECENT
BREZHNEV VISIT AND WARSAW PACT MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. PUBLIC HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 5-7 VISIT OF PCI
SECGEN ENRICO BERLINGUER AND PCI INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SEC. SERGIO SEGRE CONSISTED OF AT LEAST TWO ROUNDS
OF CEAUSESCU-BERLINGUER TALKS AND A JANUARY 6
LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CEAUSESCU. MEETING BETWEEN
BERLINGUER AND SEVERAL WESTERN AMBASSADORS JANUARY 6
(BUCHAREST 0066) DID NOT TAKE PLACE, DUE TO GENUINE
ILLNESS OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS TO HOST IT.
IN ADDITION TO CEAUSESCU, PCR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SECRETARY STEFAN ANDREI AND PCR CADRES SECRETARY EMIL
BOBU PLAYED PROMINENT ROLE IN VISIT AND APPARENTLY
PARTICIPATED IN ALL ROMANIAN-ITALIAN TALKS, AS DID
SEGRE. VISIT RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE IN ROMANIAN
MEDIA, BUT NO MORE SO THAN OTHER HIGH-LEVEL
NON-RULING PARTY COMMUNIST VISITORS.

3. LUNCHEON TOASTS WERE MAINLY REAFFIRMATIONS OF
WARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. CEAUSESCU
NOTED THAT, WHEREAS PCR IS A GOVERNING PARTY, PCI
DOES NOT DIRECTLY TAKE PART IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT,
ALTHOUGH IT "PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORT OF IT."

4. FINAL COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED SCINTEIA JANUARY 8
(ASSUME FBIS HAS FULL TEXT) IS SHORTER THAN MOST
SUCH DOCUMENTS. HEAVY EMPHASIS IS LAID ON PRINCIPLES
OF BERLIN ECPC (EXCEPTED VERBATIM) AS "FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE" FOR
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RELATIONS AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES, PARTICULARLY FULL RIGHT OF
EACH PARTY TO DEVELOP ITS OWN POLICIES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY IN WHICH IT OPERATES.
COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL
STATES--"SOCIALIST, NON-ALIGNED, AND CAPITALIST"--
IN SOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS, AND URGES GREATER
COLLABORATION AMONG COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST, AND SOCIAL-
DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AS WELL AS "FORCES OF DEMOCRATIC
AND CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION, MOVEMENTS IF NATIONAL
LIBERATION, AND PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."
PROVISIONS OF HELSINKI CSCE DOCUMENT MUST BE CARRIED
OUT, AND BELGRADE CONFERENCE SHOULD ADOPT "NEW
CONCRETE MEASURES FOR UNIMPEDED GROWTH OF
COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL-SCIENTIFIC,
CULTURAL, AND HUMANITARIAN FIELDS." DISARMAMENT
AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER RECEIVE PLUGS, BUT UNLIKE MOST CEAUSESCU
COMMUNIQES THERE IS NO RECITATION OF SPECIFIC

FOREIGN POLICY STANCES ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, OR BALKAN INTEGRATION. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDES BY NOTING ONLY "THE WIDE CONVERGENCE" OF VIEWS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-COMMUNIST PROBLEMS AND NOT THEIR "COMPLETE IDENTIFY."

5. IN ITS USUAL NEWS-OF-THE-WEEK-IN-REVIEW, SCINTEIA JANUARY 9 IN COMMENTING ON BERLINGUER VISIT REPEATED BERLIN PRINCIPLES AS "FUNDAMENTAL PREMISES OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND SOLIDARITY" BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.

6. ITALIAN EMBOFF PROVIDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS, ULTIMATE SOURCE OF WHICH IS ANSA REP GIANMARCO VENIER. BERLINGUER WANTED COMMUNIQUE TO SPECIFY LIST OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN WITHIN CSCE CONTEXT
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TO RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN CASES; ROMANIANS REFUSED BUT DID AGREE TO GENERAL REFERENCE TO UNDEFINED NEW MEASURES INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN, FOR BELGRADE CONFERENCE. BERLINGUER REPORTEDLY SOUGHT RESOLUTION OF THE 400/500 PENDING MARRIAGE CASES AND, EVEN THOUGH ROMANIANS APPARENTLY APPROVED SOME 20 OUTSTANDING CASES PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL, HE WAS TREATED TO SAME LECTURE OTHER VISITORS HAVE RECEIVED CONCERNING NEED FOR PARENTAL CONSENT, PROOF OF STABILITY OF RELATIONSHIP, ETC. ROMANIANS DID COMMIT THEMSELVES TO APPROVE 50-60 CASES A YEAR, HOWEVER, WHILE PROPOUNDING THEORY THAT SHARP DROP IN ITALIAN TOURISM TO ROMANIA BECAUSE OF REQUIREMENT OF CONVERTING \$10 A DAY WILL EVENTUALLY REDUCE BACKLOG. BERLINGUER ALSO RAISED \$10 A DAY ISSUE BUT WAS UNABLE TO MODIFY ROMANIAN DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN IT, AT LEAST VIS-A-VIS ITALIANS.

7. ON CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS, BERLINGUER AND CEAUSESCU FOUND NO COMMON GROUND, WITH BERLINGUER COMMENTING THAT HE FOUND ROMANIAN SYSTEM TOO MONOLITHIC. (COMMENT: WE RECALL THAT PCI HAS MORE THAN ONCE FOUND CEAUSESCU'S "CULT OF PERSONALITY" TO BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS BURDEN IN THE WEST, AND IN FACT HAS SOUGHT TO CONVEY THIS TO ROMANIANS.) ROMANIANS REPORTEDLY PRESSED FOR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 0177

WARMER STATEMENT OF PCI-PCR COOPERATION, BUT
BERLINGUER REFUSED. ONLY REAL POINT OF AGREE-
MENT WAS TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF ACTION ON EACH
PARTY'S RESPECTIVE ROAD TO "SOCIALISM." ON
WARSAW PACT AFFAIRS, ROMANIANS CLAIMED TO HAVE
FINESSED ALL SOVIET EFFORTS AT GREATER CONTROL,
AND BERLINGUER REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT INDEED
NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE HAS CHANGED IN ROMANIAN-
SOVIET RELATIONS AS RESULT OF BREZHNEV VISIT
AND WARSAW PACT MEETING.

8. ON OTHER ITEMS, BERLINGUER WAS REPORTEDLY
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ASTONISHED BY OPULENCE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS--
LUXURIOUS GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE, ELABORATE

MEALS, CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINES. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO ANSA CORRESPONDENT, BERLINGUER LEFT BUCHAREST WITH FEELING THAT TWO DAYS HERE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH. ANOTHER ROMANIAN SOURCE CLAIMS BERLINGUER AT ONE POINT PUBLICLY STATED THAT REAL REASON FOR HIS TRIP WAS TO SEE FOR HIMSELF ROMANIAN MISTAKES WHICH ITALIANS CAN THEN AVOID.

9. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO EXPERTISE IN READING BERLINGUER COMMUNIQUE, WE ARE IMPRESSED THAT GENERAL TONE IS LESS WARM THAN WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OR WAS EVIDENT IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER CUNHAL VISIT IN FEBRUARY 1976 AND CARRILLO IN MAY 1976. THIS COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS NO SPECIAL PRAISE FOR EITHER CEAUSESCU OR THE "GREAT WORKS" OF PCR, NOR DOES IT USE USUAL FORMULATION OF "FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP." OUR IMPRESSION, REINFORCED BY ANSA CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENTS, IS THAT BOTH SIDES HAD VERY LITTLE IN COMMON EXCEPT FOR THEIR CLEAR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN FREEDOM OF ACTION. THEREFORE, PERHAPS FROM ROMANIAN POINT OF VIEW, MOST SIGNIFICANT FACT OF BERLINGUER VISIT, FOR WHICH ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN PRESSING HARD (REFTEL), IS SIMPLY THAT IT TOOK PLACE, THEREBY ALLOWING GOR AGAIN TO DIFFERENTIATE CLEARLY ITS FOREIGN POLICY FROM THAT OF ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES TO WHOM BERLINGUER'S BRAND OF "EUROCOMMUNISM" IS ANATHEMA.

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